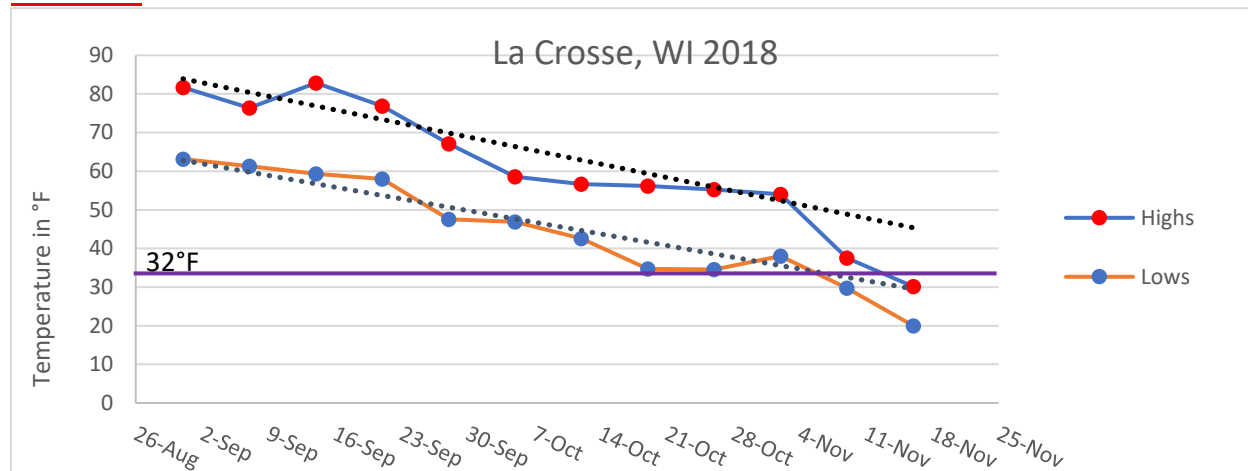


# Notes From The Field *SW*

## Migration Report 11/16/18

### UPDATE:



Was this helpful? Let us know by taking this [3 question survey](#).

### Mississippi River

We are beginning to lose bird numbers in our area. The divers are still using the river, and the recent survey shows they are predominantly canvasbacks. Most puddle ducks are present, with highest numbers likely being mallards. Most recently we have been experiencing cold, windy and cloudy weather. In the next week we expect to experience cold weather. Hunter pressure in our area is similar to our last report. Water levels in our area are lower compared to our last report and ice coverage in the area is currently at 5%. High water levels seem to have spread out the ducks this year.

View most recent flight survey [Nov 13<sup>th</sup> flight counts](#) here.

### Jackson

We are past peak bird numbers in our area. Mallards, Wood ducks and Scaup have been making up the majority of the bird numbers in our area as of late. Most recently we have been experiencing cold and snowy weather. In the next week we expect to experience cold weather. Hunter pressure in our area is lower compared to our last report. Water levels in our area are higher compared to our last report and ice coverage in the area is currently at 90%. Most of the water bodies are now covered in ice. Only streams and rivers have open water.

### Iowa/ Lower Wisconsin River

We are past peak bird numbers in our area. Mallards, Wood ducks and Blue-winged teal have been making up the majority of the bird numbers in our area as of late. Most recently we have been experiencing cold, windy and cloudy weather. In the next week we expect to experience cold weather. Hunter pressure in our area is lower compared to our last report. Water levels in our area are higher

compared to our last report and ice coverage in the area is currently at 0%. Still some ducks hanging around, but fewer than before. Still a lot of water for remaining ducks to hide on.

## **Statewide**

Overall, we are past peak bird numbers in Wisconsin. Mallards, Green-winged teal and Other divers (Scaup, Bufflehead, Goldeneyes, etc.) are showing to be the most abundant bird throughout the state. Temperatures are well below the averages for the past years and we expect that most areas will begin to lock up if they haven't already. Big water and rivers/streams will be potentially the only places to find open water. With the late harvest this year fields may still be being picked in some areas so there is potential for late season field hunting in Wisconsin.

Again, brood counts seemed average for mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks and other ducks. Canada goose numbers however seem to have been affected statewide due to the late snowfall we received in April that may affected our nesting geese. Late snowstorms in April set nesting back and caused a lot of first attempt failures across the state. Water levels across the state are variable with many places being higher than normal. Wisconsin has seen almost daily rainfall starting mid-August making water levels considerably higher than normal. Wetland food across the state seems to be similar to previous years and due to the amount of rain we have received lately crop harvest may start tracking behind what it should be compared to a normal year.

Thus far this season we have had variable reports from hunter on how the season is going so far for harvest. We cannot emphasize or encourage all of you enough to spend some time and scout before your hunting trips. Waterfowl hunters in Wisconsin have shown that hunters who scout 3 times before hunting shoot three times as many birds. It will be important also to check your spots out before hunting as some spots may not be huntable due to high water.

Be safe and happy hunting!

### **5 Important things to know:**

1. North duck zone will open one week later than in previous years, resulting in a single statewide opener for the North, South and Mississippi zones on Sept. 29;
2. Elimination of the Horicon Canada goose Management Zone (resulting in a single statewide regular goose zone);
3. Increase in the daily Canada goose bag limit to three birds per day and there is a second split in the Southern Canada goose zone resulting in a goose season that is open during the Christmas and New Year's holidays; and
4. Canada goose hunters, registration of Canada geese and in-field validation of the Canada goose hunting permit is no longer required.
5. Check out [The Basics of Waterfowl Hunting in Wisconsin](#) document on the [Waterfowl Hunting](#) webpage along with other useful tools in our Hunter resources tab for a few tips and tricks!

If you have any questions, please contact Trenton Rohrer WDNR Assistant Migratory Game Bird Ecologist send him an email or call.

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